

Berkeley and received a Masters Degree in 1970 in Social Welfare with a Psychiatric Casework Specialty. He also holds a Clinical Social Work license.

Mr. Kears performed his internship at the Sonoma State Hospital and Children's Guidance Clinic in Palo Alto. After graduation, he went to work as a Psychiatric Social Worker at Napa State Hospital. He thrived in that setting from 1970 to 1974 and advanced to Assistant Program Director.

He began his career with Alameda County as a Psychiatric Social Worker in 1974 and held a number of major department head positions in the Health Care Services Agency. In March 1986, Mr. Kears was appointed to the Agency Director position, at which time he not only took over the weighty matters of the Agency but also became Acting Director of Highland General Hospital during a time of reorganization.

Currently, as director of the Health Care Services Agency, Mr. Kears provides overall direction, consultation and troubleshooting to the four major departments comprising the agency which include Indigent Care; Public Health Department; Environmental Health Services and Behavioral Health Care Services. From 1993 to 1998, Mr. Kears assumed the additional responsibility for developing a public/private Medi-Cal managed care program, the Alameda Alliance for Health, pursuant to the State of California Department of Health Services' directive. The Alliance is now a fully licensed HMO comprised of traditional Medi-Cal and safety net county and community providers.

Mr. Kears' most recent major program responsibilities included coordinating the County's Indigent Medical Care System and monitoring contracts with the Alameda County Medical Center and a broad network of community-based primary care providers.

A number of non-profit organizations, commissions, government agencies and health systems have benefited from Mr. Kears' leadership, vast knowledge and experience in the development and implementation of county and state health care policies.

I join Dave Kears' colleagues in thanking him for his years of commitment and service in making a difference in the lives of others.

HONORING ANDREW NEAULT FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Andrew Neault from Kennesaw, Georgia has received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Andrew attends Paulding County High School where he has a 3.7 Grade Point Aver-

age and is a member of the BETA Club. Andrew has been very active with the JROTC where he has excelled as a State Champion JROTC raider. He also served as the Athletic Director and Chief Petty Officer for the Navy Delayed Entry Program.

In addition to Andrew's focus on academics and military preparation, he has remained very active in extracurricular activities. Andrew is on Paulding's football and wrestling teams and is a four-time nominee for the "People to People" student ambassador program. He is also very involved in community service, having volunteered at the Sunbelt Christian Youth Ranch in Mississippi, Thanksgiving for the Homeless, Thanksgiving for Youth Penitentiary, and Operation North Pole.

Andrew Neault is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Andrew as well as his parents, Raymond and Lynette Neault, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Andrew that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

HONORING THE WORK OF LOUISE BALLERSTEDT RAGGIO, MOTHER OF THE TEXAS FAMILY CODE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Louise Ballerstedt Raggio, a trailblazer and an advocate who has spent her life making sure that women and families have equal rights under the law.

Mrs. Raggio was born in Manor, Texas and spent the early part of her life as the daughter of a hardworking, Texas farm family. From an early age, she learned the importance of perseverance and dedication to a cause, and these traits have remained persistent throughout her life. She graduated first in her class from high school and went on to earn an undergraduate degree with highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin.

After marrying and giving birth to two children, Mrs. Raggio began law school at Southern Methodist University in a time when it was not typical for a woman to do so. During law school, she gave birth to a third son, and although it was difficult, she persisted, graduated, and passed the Texas State Bar in 1952. Later, she took a job in the Dallas County District Attorney's office and took over all child and family cases. She was soon promoted and began doing criminal prosecution. During this time, she became active with the Texas State Bar and joined the newly-formed Family Law Section of the State Bar in 1960. She would eventually become Chairwoman of the committee, making her the first woman in Texas history to become Chair of any such committee.

As Chairwoman, Mrs. Raggio and her committee uncovered 44 state laws which discriminated against women, and notably, married

women. She began a campaign to enact a Marital Property Bill and after seven drafts, Governor Connally signed it into law, marking the end of a three-year effort. She was so successful that she was asked to undertake the entire revision of all family laws in Texas and after ten years the Family Law Section of the Texas State Bar created the first complete Family Code of laws in the world.

Today, Mrs. Raggio has garnered numerous recognitions and honors including being elected the first female director of the State Bar of Texas. She is consistently regarded as the Mother of the Texas Family Code and Southern Methodist University has developed an annual Louise Ballerstedt Raggio Lecture Series in her honor. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring the work of Mrs. Raggio and her lifelong commitment to a fair and just legal system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SUSAN M. BRITTON

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, New York State American Legion Auxiliary President, Susan M. Britton, has served with distinction during her term in office from July 2008 through July 2009. Mrs. Britton traveled to all 62 counties in the great state of New York, inspiring the members of the American Legion Auxiliary to honor and serve the veterans of New York State.

Susan Britton is a 35 year member of Clarke White Unit 589, American Legion Auxiliary in Albany County. She has remained an active and vital member of the organization, volunteering her services to veterans at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany and at the Albany VA Fisher House.

This year Department President Britton has chosen "Operation Purple" as her special project. Operation Purple began in 2004 and is sponsored through the National Military Family Association (NMFA). Operation Purple is the only program open to children of personnel from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces ("purple" representing inclusion of the branches). The program focuses on helping military children deal with the challenges and stress that come with deployment by providing free weeks of summer camp at different locations to bring children together in a fun and healthy environment.

As word has spread about Operation Purple, there is a pressing need for additional support to allow as many children as possible to attend this specialized program. All funds donated will support resident children within New York State. There are two camps, located in Lewis and Orange counties.

Special fundraising projects have been conducted to support Operation Purple, including those by the American Legion Family, which include The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. To date, over \$60,000 has been raised to provide military children in New York with the opportunity to attend one of these camps.